Environmental Checklist Form

1. Project title:

Lake Oroville State Recreation Area General Plan / Draft Environmental Impact Report

2. Lead agency name and address:

California Department of Parks and Recreation One Capitol Mall, Suite 500 Sacramento, CA 95814

3. Contact person and phone number:

Ellen Wagner (916) 445-8929

4. Project location:

Butte County, CA

5. Description of project:

The general plan provides a long-term outline and guidelines for future proposed facilities, land use, resource policies, management, operation, interpretation, and concession operations at Lake Oroville State Recreation Area. This general plan and draft environmental impact report is the first tier of environmental analysis. Future implementation of general plan proposals may occur in phases as funding becomes available, and these proposals will be subject to additional (tiered) review.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below one impact that is a "Potentially Signification of the control of the c		
Aesthetics Biological Resources Hazards & Hazardous Materials Mineral Resources Public Services Utilities / Service Systems	Agriculture Resources Cultural Resources Hydrology / Water Quality Noise Recreation Mandatory Findings of Signif	Air Quality Geology /Soils Land Use / Planning Population / Housing Transportation/Traffic
DETERMINATION: (To be completed by On the basis of this initial evaluation:	the Lead Agency)	
I find that the proposed project C	<u> </u>	ffect on the environment, and a
I find that although the proposed will not be a significant effect in this case to by the project proponent. A MITIGATE	because revisions in the project	t have been made by or agreed
I find that the proposed project MENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is	=	the environment, and an
I find that the proposed project M significant unless mitigated" impact on the analyzed in an earlier document pursuan mitigation measures based on the earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is addressed.	e environment, but at least one of the to applicable legal standards, a analysis as described on attach	effect 1) has been adequately and 2) has been addressed by ned sheets. An
I find that although the proposed because all potentially significant effects NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVI that are imposed upon the proposed project.	(a) have been analyzed adequa applicable standards, and (b) has DECLARATION, including revi	tely in an earlier EIR or ave been avoided or mitigated
Signature Ellen Wagner Printed name	Date	

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS Would the project:	·	·	•	·
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?				
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area				
II. <u>AGRICULTURE RESOURCES</u> : In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:	e			
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?				
III. <u>AIR QUALITY</u> Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute				
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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impac
substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?				
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?				
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?				
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?				
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service'?	•			
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?				
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clea Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	n			
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	- 1 1			
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				

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V. CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?				
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	е			
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known. earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				
iv) Landslides?				
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	· 🗌			
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, of that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	m 🔲			

Less Than

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e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				
VII. <u>HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</u> Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?				
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with ar adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	n 🗌			
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	5,			
VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY Would the project:)			
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	• 🗌			

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b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?				
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?				
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?				
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?				
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as result of the failure of a levee or dam?				
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				
IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?				

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b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmenta effect?				
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				
X. MINERAL RESOURCES Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				
XI. NOISE Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?				
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambien noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	t			
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	е			

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IX. POPULATION AND HOUSING Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				
XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, is order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the publis services:	y			
Fire protection?				
Police protection?				
Schools?				
Parks?				
Other public facilities?				
XIV. <u>RECREATION</u>				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				

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XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC Would the project:				
a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in eithe the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio o roads, or congestion at intersections)?				
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location, that results in substantial safety risks?				
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	e 🗌			
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?				
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?				
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				
XVI. <u>UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS</u> - Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	t			
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				

Less Than

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e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatme provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	1 1			
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habita of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten the eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	0			
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?				
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				

COMMENTS:

I. Aesthetics:

The general plan proposals for visitor facilities (structures, parking lots, picnic areas, lighting, trails, etc.) have the potential for adverse impacts to sensitive aesthetic resources when such proposals are developed. Potentially significant adverse impacts may occur depending on the siting of facilities and materials chosen. The general plan proposes appropriate goals and guidelines to minimize any potentially adverse impacts to aesthetic resources. Future implementation of general plan proposals will occur in phases as funding becomes available, and these proposals will be subject to additional (tiered) environmental review.

II. Agricultural Resources:

The park project will not conflict with existing zoning or cause the conversion of substantial farmland to non-agricultural use.

III. Air Quality:

This project will comply with all applicable air quality plans and/or regulations. Facility construction may cause temporary short-term impacts to air quality. The project may provide expanded recreational facilities that may increase visitation to the park, thus increasing the local concentration of vehicle emissions. This project is a general plan, with a tiered approach to environmental review. The development of any future facilities based on general plan proposals will be subject to additional environmental review.

IV. Biological Resources:

There are sensitive species and habitats within and adjacent to Lake Oroville State Recreation Area. The general plan proposes visitor facility additions and improvements as well as increased recreation opportunities and land use changes that may have potential adverse impacts on sensitive plants, wildlife, and habitats in the State Recreation Area. The general plan also proposes appropriate goals and guidelines that will minimize potential impacts to sensitive biological resources. This project is a general plan, with a tiered approach to environmental review. Future implementation of general plan proposals will occur in phases as funding becomes available, and these proposals will be subject to additional (tiered) environmental review.

V. Cultural Resources:

Lake Oroville State Recreation Area contains a variety of sensitive cultural resources. Facility improvement, increased recreation opportunities, and land use changes have the potential to adversely impact these resources. The general plan proposes appropriate goals and guidelines that will minimize significant potential impacts to sensitive cultural resources. Most of the geologic formations present within park boundaries are not fossil-bearing. The fossiliferous Chico and Monte de Oro Formations are present in the watershed, but should not be disturbed by park activities. The development of any future facilities based on general plan proposals will be subject to additional environmental review.

VI. Geology and Soils:

a) No Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones are mapped within the park boundaries, so there is less than significant risk due to surface rupture. The expected peak ground acceleration due to an earthquake is only 0.1 to 0.2 g (acceleration due to gravity), which would result in only light ground shaking. There are no known areas prone to liquefaction. The numerous landslides that ring the lake could experience some additional failure in the event of a strong earthquake.

- b) Changes in topography and soil disturbance due to park maintenance, construction, or rehabilitation of facilities has the potential for erosion and unstable soil conditions. There are multiple landslides within the park, ranging from ancient and inactive to active. Most landslides terminate at the lake edge.
- c) As discussed above, landslides are present within the park and could be reactivated by future development.
- d) According to the Butte County General Plan, soils of high expansion potential are found in the nearly level areas of the Sacramento Valley around the population centers of Chico, Oroville, Biggs, and Gridley. Most areas along stream valleys and on steep mountain slopes (such as the majority of the park) have soils with no or low expansion potential.
- e) Most soils within the park are not suitable for leach fields. Most of the park facilities are on a regional sanitary sewer system. Some locations either have evaporation/percolation ponds, while other areas are provided with vault toilets only. Any future projects that would require sewer system additions or upgrades will be hooked into the regional system, if possible.

The general plan proposes appropriate goals and guidelines that will minimize significant potential impacts. This project is a general plan, with a tiered approach to environmental review. Future implementation of general plan proposals will occur in phases as funding becomes available, and these proposals will be subject to additional (tiered) environmental review.

VII. Hazards and Hazardous Materials:

The State Recreation Area and surrounding lands are susceptible to wildland fires. The general plan presents goals and guidelines necessary to develop future fire management plans. There is the potential for hazardous materials spills during construction as well as fuel spills in the waters of Lake Oroville during normal recreation activities. All regulations for hazardous material transport, use, and disposal will be adhered to. The development of any future facilities based on general plan proposals will be subject to additional environmental review.

VIII. Hydrology and Water Quality:

The waters of Lake Oroville are a sensitive resource. Proposed land use changes and the addition or relocation of visitor facilities have the potential to adversely impact water quality through both point and non-point sources. The general plan proposes goals and guidelines that recommend actions to reduce sources of potential water pollution. Recreation facilities proposed below the dam have the potential for adverse impacts if a dam failure were to occur. Future implementation of general plan proposals will occur in phases as funding becomes available, and these proposals will be subject to additional (tiered) environmental review.

- a) Water quality upstream of Lake Oroville has mostly been within the established water quality goals and criteria. Some elevated turbidity is associated with high winter flows. Nutrients are at low levels. Some metals (cadmium, iron, lead) have occasionally exceeded the beneficial use criteria. Lake Oroville water quality is generally within the acceptable levels, with some higher readings during winter high flows. MTBE levels are elevated during the spring and summer boating season, but decrease in the fall and winter. In the lower Feather River below the dam, water quality is generally within acceptable levels, however several metals (cadmium, copper, and arsenic) have exceeded various criteria. Any proposed future development in the park will utilize Department-approved Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent releases of sediment, vehicle fluids, or other potential contaminants to the watershed.
- c,d,e,f) Any future development could potentially contribute to increased sedimentation, flooding, and degradation of water quality. Implementation of BMPs as discussed above and proper

engineering design of new facilities (grading, drainage) will minimize impacts to the watershed.

- i) Failure of Oroville Dam would inundate the portions of the park located downstream. This is a current impact and would not be significantly increased due to this project.
- j) The park is not subject to impacts from tsunamis. Some impacts could ocurr from reactivation of the landslides (normally not of the mudflow type) present within park boundaries. Seiches are seismically induced waves in bodies of water that can be particularly hazardous where lakes and reservoirs are bordered by campgrounds or other facilities on flat banks. According to the Butte County General Plan, seiche effects have not been recorded in any of the reservoirs in Butte County that are within the jurisdiction of the State of California Division of Safety of Dams.

IX. Land Use and Planning:

This effort is a general plan and draft environmental impact report for Lake Oroville State Recreation Area that provides guidelines for future land use and development. The proposals in this plan are compatible with state, regional, and local land use regulations, policies, and plans. This plan and environmental impact report is the first tier of environmental analysis. Future implementation of general plan proposals will occur in phases as funding becomes available, and these proposals will be subject to additional (tiered) environmental review.

X. Mineral Resources:

This State Recreation Area is not known to contain any significant mineral resources. If significant mineral resources were present, the Public Resources Code Section 5001.65 prohibits the commercial exploitation of resources in State Parks. This project is a general plan, with a tiered approach to environmental review. The development of any future facilities based on general plan proposals will be subject to additional environmental review.

XI. Noise:

Proposed facilities may result in increased noise levels associated with normal recreational use. The operation of construction equipment during future construction projects may temporarily increase noise levels. Future implementation of general plan proposals will occur in phases as funding becomes available, and these proposals will be subject to additional (tiered) environmental review.

XII. Population and Housing:

The proposals presented in the general plan would not induce substantial population growth in the area, displace existing housing, or displace substantial numbers of people. Future implementation of general plan proposals will occur in phases as funding becomes available, and these proposals will be subject to additional (tiered) environmental review.

XIII. Public Services:

A potential increase in the amount, access, or use of facilities may increase the fire danger. This may result in a potential increase in fire protection services. The development of any future facilities based on general plan proposals will be subject to additional environmental review.

XIV. Recreation:

Plan recommendations may affect existing recreational use patterns by proposing new facilities or changing the use of existing recreational areas. The development of any future facilities based on general plan proposals will be subject to additional environmental review.

XV. Transportation/Traffic:

Enhanced future facilities may result in increased visitor use. Parking capacity may be increased in some areas to enhance visitor access and use. Parking capacity in other areas of the park may be reduced or relocated to enhance or restore natural resource values. Future implementation of general plan proposals will occur in phases as funding becomes available, and these proposals will be subject to additional (tiered) environmental review.

XVI. Utilities and Service Systems:

The plan may recommend new or expanded facilities for the park which may result in increases in visitor use and consequent increases in demand for water, sewage and refuse services. The construction or expansion of storm water drainage facilities will comply with all applicable regulations and policies with regard to water quality. In addition, the plan proposes goals and guidelines that will minimize impacts to water quality. The development of any future facilities based on general plan proposals will be subject to additional environmental review.